

THE RELATIONSHIP OF PASSIVE SMOKING TO VARIOUS HEALTH OUTCOMES AMONG SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN CALIFORNIA.

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The relationship of passive smoking to the incidence of cancers, fatal ischemic heart disease and all natural cause mortality among Californian Seventh-day Adventists was investigated in 1988. From the 34,445 subjects of the Adventist Health Study cohort (1976-1982), two sub-groups were selected to evaluate the research questions. One, the spouse pairs cohort, consisted of 11,060 married couples. The second was a group of 6,467 subjects, referred to as the AHSMOG cohort, who were involved in a concurrent air pollution study. Follow-up for ascertainment of cancer incidence and mortality was from 1976 to 1982. Passive smoking exposure for the "spouse pairs" was based on the husband's smoking status in marriage. For the AHSMOG cohort Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) exposure was based on the number of years lived with and the number of years worked with a smoker. For non-smoking females of the spouse pairs cohort, age-adjusted rate ratios and (95% C.I.) for each outcome represent those females married to a smoker compared to those females married to a non-smoker. Lung cancer RR = 2.01 (0.39-8.79), all smoking related cancers RR = 1.22 (0.61-2.44); cervical cancer RR = 4.86 (1.33-17.66) and all incident cancers RR = 1.20 (0.94-1.54). For females married to current smokers there was increased risk for fatal IHD, RR = 1.40 (0.51-3.84). No effect was observed for all natural cause mortality. For the AHSMOG cohort the results were less consistent by type of exposure measure and outcome. The small number of cases for some outcomes and the probable misclassification of passive smoking exposure limited the ability to achieve conclusive results. However, the results indicate an adverse effect for ETS exposure and are consistent with other reported results.

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